
ABSTRACT

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The wear sleeve in the present cutter tool assembly comprises a rearward split ring portion and an intermediate cylindrical ring portion adjacent a forward shoulder portion. The outer diameter of the wear sleeve intermediate portion and rearward split ring portion is uniform. The wear sleeve is inserted into the bit holder's stepped bore aperture. The split ring portion is radially compressed by the smaller diameter rearward end as the sleeve is hammered and axially displaced into the bit holder. The split ring portion forms frictional contact with the opposite end portion of the aperture. The wear sleeve friction fit can be easily removed manually in the field. The bit holder and cooperating support block are designed to limit the amount of relative yaw between the two members during operation to reduce the overall wear there between. The cutter tool assembly includes a groove having side surfaces that are inclined at least 15 degrees with respect to the horizontal axis and the cutting bit is positioned more aft of the central axis of the support block than prior art designs.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 10 and 11 have been cancelled.

Claims 1-9 and 13-16 have been amended as follows:

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1. (Amended) A non-rotatable protective sleeve for a bit holder on a cutting tool assembly comprising: a partially split body element including a forward portion adjacent an intermediate portion and a split portion adjacent said intermediate portion, said body element adapted to be receivable in said bit holder.

2. (Amended) The non-rotatable protective sleeve of claim 1 wherein said split portion extends for less than half the length of said body element.

3. (Amended) The non-rotatable protective sleeve of claim 1 wherein said forward portion is a collar for protecting the bit holder from axial forces applied to said cutting tool bit.

4. (Amended) The non-rotatable protective sleeve of claim 1 wherein said split portion and said intermediate portion are cylindrical.

5. (Amended) The non-rotatable protective sleeve of claim 4 wherein said cylindrical intermediate portion and said cylindrical split portion have external surfaces of uniform diameter.

6. (Amended) A cutter tool assembly for attachment to cutting tool machinery comprising:
a bit holder block having a cavity bore,
a non-rotatable partially split protective wear sleeve including a forward portion adjacent an intermediate portion and a split portion adjacent said intermediate portion,
said protective wear sleeve is adapted to be received in said bit holder block.

7. (Amended) The cutter tool assembly of claim 6 wherein said cavity bore is a stepped bore having a forward portion with a larger diameter than a smaller diameter rearward portion.

8. (Amended) The cutter tool assembly of claim 7 wherein said cavity bore has a tapered surface between the larger step bore and the smaller step bore.

9. (Amended) A cutter tool assembly for attachment to cutting tool machinery comprising:
a bit holder having a T-shaped key shank,
a support block having a T-shaped groove for receiving said bit holder T-shaped key shank, wherein said support block has symmetric top surfaces flanking said T-shaped groove, said support block having a central vertical axis, said symmetric top surfaces are oriented at least about an angle of about 15 degrees with respect to a horizontal plane so as to reduce

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rotation of the bit holder about said central vertical axis.

13. (Amended) The cutter tool assembly according to claim 9, wherein said bit holder includes a bore for receiving a shank of a cutting tool bit, wherein said bit holder bore is positioned generally aft of the central vertical axis for locating a cutting tip closer to the vertical central axis of the support block limiting the amount of torque applied to said cutter tool assembly during operation.

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14. (Amended) The cutter tool assembly according to claim 13, wherein said bit holder bore positioned aft of said central vertical axis is approximately 75%.

15. (Amended) A cutter tool assembly for attachment to cutting tool machinery comprising:

a bit holder,

a support block wherein said support block has a central vertical axis, said bit holder includes a bore for receiving a shank of a cutting tool bit,

wherein said bit holder bore is positioned generally aft of the central vertical axis for locating a cutting tip closer to the central axis of the support block limiting the amount of torque applied to said cutter tool assembly during operation.

16. (Amended) The cutter tool assembly according to claim 15, wherein said bit holder bore positioned aft of said central vertical axis is approximately 75%.

Please add the following new claims 17-24:

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17. (New) A protective sleeve for a bit holder on a cutting tool assembly comprising:

a body element including a forward portion adjacent an intermediate portion and a split portion adjacent said intermediate portion, said body element adapted to be receivable in said bit holder,

wherein said split portion has a generally uniform outer diameter.

18. (New) The protective sleeve according to claim 17, wherein said intermediate portion also has said generally uniform outer diameter.

19. (New) A partially split protective sleeve for a bit holder on a cutting tool assembly comprising:

a body element including a forward portion adjacent an intermediate portion and a split portion adjacent said intermediate portion, said body element adapted to be receivable in said bit holder,

wherein said split portion and intermediate portion have a generally uniform outer diameter.

20. (New) The partially split protective sleeve according to claim 19, wherein said split portion extends for less than half the length of said body element.

21. (New) The partially split protective sleeve according to claim 20 said forward portion is a collar for protecting the bit holder from axial forces applied to a cutting tool bit.

22. (New) A cutter tool assembly for attachment to cutting tool machinery comprising:

a bit holder having a T-shaped key shank,

a support block having a T-shaped groove for receiving said bit holder T-shaped key shank, wherein said support block has symmetric top surfaces flanking said T-shaped groove, said support block having a central vertical axis, said symmetric top surfaces are oriented at an angle of at least 15 degrees with respect to the horizontal plane so as to reduce rotation of the bit holder about said central vertical axis,

wherein said bit holder includes a bore for receiving a shank of a cutting tool bit, said cutting tool bit having a tip end opposite said shank,

wherein 75% of said bit holder bore is positioned generally aft of the central vertical axis for locating the cutting tip closer to the central vertical axis of the support block limiting the amount

of torque applied to said cutter tool assembly during operation.

23. (New) A cutter tool assembly for attachment to cutting tool machinery comprising:
a cutting bit having a cutting tip,
a bit holder,
a support block wherein said support block has a central vertical axis, said bit holder includes a bore for receiving a shank of a cutting tool bit,
wherein said bit holder bore is positioned generally aft of the central vertical axis for locating said cutting tip closer to the central vertical axis of the support block limiting the amount of torque applied to said cutter tool assembly during operation.

24. (New) A cutter tool assembly for attachment to cutting tool machinery comprising:
a cutting bit having a cutting tip,
a bit holder having a T-shaped key shank,
a support block having a T-shaped groove for receiving said bit holder T-shaped key shank, wherein said support block has symmetric top surfaces flanking said T-shaped groove, said support block having a central vertical axis, said symmetric top surfaces are oriented at least about an angle of about 15 degrees with respect to a horizontal plane so as to reduce rotation of the bit holder about said central vertical axis,

wherein said bit holder includes a bore for receiving a shank of said cutting tool bit,

wherein said bit holder bore is positioned generally aft of the central vertical axis for locating said cutting tip closer to the central vertical axis of the support block limiting the amount of torque applied to said cutter tool assembly during operation.
